

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 EURE-00 EB-07 STR-04 /045 W

----- 092445

P R 201230Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OLSO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS MOSCOW 16715

USINFO FOR IOP/M

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 16695; (B) MOSCOW 16593; (C) MOSCOW 16495

1. COVERAGE OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS FOR NOVEMBER 19/20 IS LIMITED TO A SHORT ARTICLE IN SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA FOR NOVEMBER 19 AND A "COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20. THE SOVETSKAY ROSSIYA ARTICLE IS IDENTICAL WITH THE TASS DESPATCH PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA ON NOVEMBER 19 AND REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN REFTEL A. THE COMMENTARY ARTICLE IS PUBLISHED IN

BOLD TYPE AND SIGNED BY RUDOLF PUCHKOV.

2. ENTITLED "THE MEETING AT RAMBOUILLET", THE COMMENTARY ARTICLE BEGINS WITH THE STATEMENT THAT FOREIGN OBSERVERS EVALUATE THE MEETING AS "THE LATEST ATTEMPT (BY THE SIX CAPITALIST POWERS) TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT THEM FROM ALL DIRECTIONS", A DECLINE IN PRODUCTION, RISING INFLATION, FINANCIAL-MONETARY DISORDER AND THE GROWTH OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

3. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEETING HAS BEEN STRESSED IN STATEMENTS MADE BY THE SIX LEADERS AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS TAKEN PLACE, IN THE MIDST OF A PERIOD OF ACUTE CRISIS, SUPPOSEDLY INDICATES SOME RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCES. IN FACT, "SOME SECTORS OF THE (WESTERN) PRESS ARE WRITING ABOUT A 'SPIRIT OF RAMBOUILLET', A SPIRIT OF AGREEMENT WHICH, THEY SAY, HAS JUST BEEN BORN AND WILL AID THE ECONOMY OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD IN EXTRICATING ITSELF FROM ITS DIFFICULTIES."

4. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BELIEVE THAT THIS ATMOSPHERE OF BENEVOLENCE IS MERELY A "SCREEN TO COVER DISAGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED." IT NOTES THAT NO SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED AND THAT THE SIX LEADERS "WERE SILENT ABOUT ANY KIND OF SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR LIQUIDATION OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ON SUCH AREAS AS FINANCIAL-MONETARY AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ENERGY POLICY."

5. OBSERVERS ARE ALSO SAID TO NOTE THAT THE MEETING'S DECLARATION CONTAINS A "THESIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULAR AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST STATES, AND THAT THERE IS ALSO PROCLAIMED A READINESS TO ENTER INTO A 'CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE' WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES". BUT A VERY NARROW CIRCLE OF STATES WERE REPRESENTED AT RAMBOUILLET. CANADA AND FIVE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMON MARKET WERE NOT INVITED TO ATTEND.

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6. THE PRAVDA COMMENTARY CONCLUDES WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "THE MOST FAR-SIGHTED OBSERVERS ARE EMPHASIZING THAT IN CONDITIONS WHERE A PROCESS OF DETENTE IS DEVELOPING, THE SOLUTION OF WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IS NOT FOUND IN EXCLUSIVE REGIONAL BLOCS OR ALLIANCES BUT ALONG THE ROUTE OF BROAD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FREE FROM ANY KIND OF DISCRIMINATION, WHICH TAKES INTO

ACCOUNT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND
PEOPLES."
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC REPORTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW16715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750404-0834
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751125/aaaaavqf.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 16695, 75 MOSCOW 16593, 75 MOSCOW 16495
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 OCT 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006